

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CU-04
ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 /134 W
-----070041Z 061066 /12

P R 062349Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3505
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

UNCLAS USUN 1424

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, BC, LT, SF, WZ
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE
STUDENTS

TEXT OF SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S LETTER OF APRIL 22, 1977
TO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING ACTION HE HAS TAKEN
IN RESPONSE TO UNGA RESOLUTION 31/126 (ADOPTED WITHOUT VOTE)
CONCERNING PROBLEMS CREATED BY INFLUX OF SOUTH AFRICAN
STUDENT REFUGEES INTO BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, AND SWAZILAND
FOLLOWS:
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QUOTE SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO RESOLUTION 31/126 IN WHICH THE
ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS DIRECTED TO
THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE CONTINUING INFLUX OF SOUTH
AFRICAN STUDENT REFUGEES INTO BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, AND SWAZI-

LAND, AND TO THE URGENT NEED TO PROVIDE A PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION CREATED THEREBY. I ATTACH A COPY OF THAT RESOLUTION FOR EASE OF REFERENCE.

IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE RESOLUTION, I WAS REQUESTED TO CONSULT WITH THE THREE GOVERNMENTS AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS CONCERNED, AND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ORGANIZE AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THE CARE, SUBSISTENCE AND EDUCATION OF THESE STUDENT REFUGEES. THE RESOLUTION, IN PARAGRAPH 4, URGED ALL STATES TO RESPOND GENEROUSLY TO ANY APPEALS WHICH I MIGHT MAKE IN THIS CONNEXION.

I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT I APPOINTED A MISSION TO VISIT THE THREE COUNTRIES IN FEBRUARY 1977 TO ASCERTAIN, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENTS AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS CONCERNED, THE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE THE STUDENT REFUGEES AND TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS. THE FINDINGS OF THE MISSION ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES ARE CONTAINED IN THE REPORT ISSUED UNDER THE SYMBOL A/32/65, A COPY OF WHICH IS TRANSMITTED HEREWITH.

IT IS EVIDENT FROM THE REPORT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN RECENT MONTHS IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENT REFUGEES ENTERING THE THREE COUNTRIES FROM SOUTH AFRICA. ALTHOUGH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES FOR REFUGEES IN THE THREE COUNTRIES HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN THE PAST BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE GOVERN-

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MENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED, FACILITIES FOR RECEIVING AND ACCOMODATING THIS NEW INFLUX OF STUDENT REFUGEES WERE EITHER NON-EXISTENT OR INADEQUATE. FURTHERMORE, AS THE REPORT INDICATES, MANY OF THESE REFUGEES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES BECAUSE OF THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE NOW STAYING.

THE THREE COUNTRY PROGRAMMES RECOMMENDED BY THE MISSION DEAL WITH THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT REFUGEES PRESENTLY IN BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND, AND PROVIDE A SMALL MARGIN FOR ANTICIPATED INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF SUCH REFUGEES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. TOGETHER, THE PROGRAMMES REQUIRE A CAPITAL INVESTMENT OF \$7,057,200 AND RECURRING ANNUAL EXPENDITURES OF \$1,366,800. THEY CALL MAINLY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO RECEPTION AND TRANSIT CENTRES, THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS, THE EXTENSION OF STUDENT RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION, THE EXPANSION OF SPACE AND FACILITIES AT THE LOCAL UNI-

VERSITIES AND AN INCREASE IN SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE SECONDARY
AND UNIVERSITY LEVELS.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND EACH
RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR CO-ORDINATED ACTION, BOTH AT THE LOCAL
AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROPOSED PROGRAMMES. THEY WILL INDICATE IN DUE COURSE THEIR
INDIVIDUAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CO-ORDINATION. IN VIEW OF THE
NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS, I HAVE DESIGNATED PRINCE SADRUDDIN
AGA KHAN, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,
TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-ORDINATING ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND TO PURSUE THIS APPEAL ON MY
BEHALF WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

TO SUMMARIZE, IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT THE INFLUX OF STUDENT
REFUGEES HAS CREATED SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE HOST COUNTRIES,
WHOSE RESOURCES ARE LIMITED, WHICH ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY
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DISADVANTAGED AND WHICH ARE AMONGST THE LEAST DEVELOPED IN
AFRICA. I AM CONVINCED THAT EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE IS
URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR THE CARE, SUBSISTENCE AND EDUCATION
OF THESE REFUGEES. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I EARNESTLY
APPEAL TO ALL STATES AND TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO
CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO THE HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES
RECOMMENDED IN THE REPORT OF THE MISSION.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

KURT WALDHEIM
SECRETARY-GENERAL UNQUOTE
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, REFUGEES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, EMERGENCY PLANNING, STUDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770160-0448
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770583/aaaactqg.tel
Line Count: 152
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c4a40799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2610445
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE STUDENTS TEXT OF SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S LETTER OF APR
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, BC, LT, SF, WZ, UNGA, (WALDHEIM, KURT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c4a40799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009